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How to Lead a *Eureka!* Expedition

Explore God's Word. Discover God's Love.

Five Foundations of Eureka!

Start with a strong understanding of the concepts that drive each *Eureka!* lesson.

1. Discovery

Kids are curious. They want to try it out and figure it out, learning and discovering things for themselves. Kids are more likely to remember and embrace discoveries they view as their own. Follow the curiosity of your kids and see where God leads!

2. Deep Hermeneutic

Eureka! dives deep by equipping kids with the experience to read and explore the Bible. Five simple questions guide every exploration of Scripture. (More on those later.) They'll not only discover what's in the Bible, but **how** to read God's Word.

3. Participation

Kids and leaders are equal participants. Lessons thrive with interactive activities and discussions. Guide and collaborate with kids as you dig into God's Word and explore faith discoveries. Everyone has ownership in the exploring process.

4. Confidence

A consistent routine means knowing what's coming next. Class interaction shows kids that leaders are genuinely interested in their input. Leaders aren't asked to lecture, memorize, or be amazing storytellers. Confidence abounds for everyone.

5. Koinonia

We need kids to tell us what's on their minds. Kids need us to listen, encourage, and guide them. Every *Eureka!* age level explores the same scripture each week, making family conversations after church more fruitful. Kids help kids. Adults help kids. Kids help adults. *Eureka!* brings families together.



EUREKA! Words

To start, here's a few words and concepts you'll encounter as you dig through *Eureka!*:



Expedition—*Eureka's* word for a lesson.

Two Weeks—Each Bible passage is explored for two expeditions so kids can go deeper into each passage. It also means kids won't totally miss a passage if they miss an expedition.

Discovery Guide (DG)—Each student gets one to use in the expedition, and they'll take it home after class.



Leader's Guide (LG)—This is what the teacher uses to lead the expedition. It's created in outline form for quick reference.



Discovery—Faith discoveries are nuggets of learning or spiritual growth kids walk away with each week. Discoveries range from "God really loves me" to "Jesus can heal the sick" to "I need to forgive my sister."

My Discovery Relic—

Created every week, it records a student's personal faith discovery from the expedition. You'll find the relic on page 2 of the **DG**. It's waiting to be marked up with words or pictures, a tangible record of a student's faith discovery.



Class Relic—Created every two weeks, it records one big class discovery from the Bible passage. While the **My Discovery Relic** is personal for each student, the **Class Relic** is decided on by the class. Eight blank **Class Relics** are included in the **Expedition Resources**. That leaves you one or two extras to use as needed.

Relic Wall Poster—

A place to display completed **Class Relics** and remember your class discoveries. Hang it up in your room and attach the **Class Relics** as they're completed. Included in the **Expedition Resources** kit.



Niki Knack's Gritty Journal of Adventuring—

Appearing in the **DG**, the journal features Niki Knack—a resourceful adventurer. Niki travels with her courageous and snuggly sidekick, Kiwi the gerbil. Each journal entry will get kids in the exploring mood. Think of the journal as a fun opening icebreaker. An audio version is included on the DVD and CD.

Remember Verse—The primary goal of these verses is to remember why we explore. We explore out of a response to who God is and who we were created to be. Every age level uses the same **Remember Verse**.

Eureka! Bible Passage (EBP)—An abridged version of the Bible passage for each expedition. Many of the Bible passages we explore can be pretty long, so this gives you a condensed version of each passage to read with your class. The **EBP** stays true to the most common Bible translations.

Eureka! DVD or CD—Audio or video of all the **Remember Verse** music videos, the **Eureka!** theme song, and Niki Knack's journals.

Tell It—Interactive storytelling methods to explore, re-enact, and enjoy the passage. There's no memorizing, just some class discussion to prepare. We rotate through about 7 different methods. This means you aren't constantly trying to learn a new method every week. How's that sound?

Index Cards—We know you know what index cards are. But it's just about the only non-standard resource you might need. It's not a bad idea to just keep a stash in your room.

5 What's—The exploring questions that make up the foundation of a strong Bible study strategy (hermeneutic) and form the fabric of **Eureka!** We ask these questions every time we read God's Word. It won't be long before your kids have these down pat.

5 What's

- **What's That Word?**—Explore different words in the passage. Kids have much more confidence when they know the meaning of the words.
- **What's Happening in the Passage?**—Explore the people, setting, and action of the passage. Understand it and enjoy it. Empathize with and appreciate the people in the passage.
- **What's Happening in the Bible?**—Explore a different part of God's Word as context for our main passage. We see God's big story unfolding in front of us.
- **What's This Say about God?**—God reveals himself through the Bible. Explore to know God, His character, and His love.
- **What's This Say about Us?**—As we learn about God and embrace Him, how do we react? Who are we? What do we do now? How do we live in God's love?

FoundryLeader.com—A password-protected website with digital resources. Your LG is there, along with everything that's on the **Eureka! DVD** and **CD**, and some bonus **Eureka!** graphics. There's one password in your LG and a different one in your **Expedition Resources** kit.

- With purchase of the LG, you'll have access to the lessons, **Remember Verse** activities, and more. The password for these files is found on the first page of each lesson.
- With purchase of the **Expedition Resources** kit, you'll have access to stream everything that's on the **Eureka! DVD** and **CD**. The password for these files is provided on the DVD and CD case found inside your **Expedition Resources** kit.



Your LG has all you need to lead an expedition, but let's do a quick walk-through. Grab a LG and we'll give you some extra insight into the 9 parts of a Eureka! expedition.

Arrival & Transition

- Help kids connect with each other. Expeditions are more fun when exploring with friends!
- The **Eureka! Theme Song** is a great way to settle pre-class energy and focus attention.
- Kick off the expedition by listening to **Niki Knack's Gritty Audio Journal of Adventuring**.

1: Remember Verse

- Get started with the **Remember Verse** video.
- This is also a good time for a class prayer to kick off your official exploration of God's Word. Let the **Remember Verse** guide your prayer.

2: What's That Word?

- Exploring these words now makes it easier for kids to understand the passage when they hear it later. They'll feel extra awesome when they see a word they've just decoded.
- Words come from the Bible passage, **Remember Verse**, or the week's expedition theme.

3: Peaks and Pitfalls

- Time for some serious Christian community. Listen, encourage, and pray for each other. Don't breeze through here too quickly.

4: Hear It

- Your first pass through the day's Bible passage. You'll want a strong reader to read the passage so kids can just listen and soak in the story.
- Read the **Eureka Bible Passage** or straight from the Bible.

5: Tell It

- Tell It** methods are lighthearted but valuable ways to begin exploring a passage. In other words, it's time for some serious fun.
- Most **Tell It** methods involve important storytelling decisions. To maximize student ownership and engagement, make decisions as a class.
- Tell It** discussions help kids analyze and internalize the Bible passage. It's a strong learning tool. It also gives kids an opportunity to practice their listening and decision-making skills with their peers and Christian leaders.

6: Embrace It

- Quiet time to read or personally reflect on the story one more time.
- Embrace It** also lowers energy levels and refocuses everyone for discussion time.
- Quiet time isn't always easy for kids. (Shocker!) Try starting out with just 20-30 seconds of quiet time, and add a little more time each week.

7: What's Happening. . .

- Discussion guided by questions #2 or #3 of **The 5 What's**. The 1st week in a passage focuses on **What's Happening in the Passage?** The 2nd focuses on **What's Happening in the Bible?**

8: What's This Say about . . .

- Discussion guided by questions #4 or #5 of **The 5 What's**. The 1st week in a passage focuses on **What's This Say about God?** The 2nd focuses on **What's This Say about Us?**
- Be a good listener. Let kids ask questions. Offer encouragement. Ask follow-up questions like, "Tell me more about that," and help them sort through their thoughts.
- Help kids identify discoveries by saying something like, "That's an important discovery!"

9: Record Your Discovery

My Discovery Relic—Every week by every student

- Each student writes something or draws a picture of a faith discovery they want to remember. (There's even space in the **LG** to make your own.)

Class Relic—Every two weeks by the whole class

- Many times this class discovery is a more general version of what's on someone's **My Discovery Relic**. For example, the **Class Relic** might say "God helps us forgive" and a **My Discovery Relic** might read, "I'm going to forgive my sister."

Keep Exploring!

- Encourage kids to explore at home by looking through their **DG** during the week and completing the activities on the back page.